

April 13, 1983

LB 628

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Kilgarin, did you turn your light on for a purpose? Did you wish to be recognized now? Okay, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR KILGARIN: Are we on the bill?

SPEAKER NICHOL: No.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment is offered by Senator Beutler, I'm sorry, Senator Wesely.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this is an amendment dealing with the Department of Public Institutions fund, cash fund. The Services for the Visually Impaired is now located in the old Orthopedic Hospital at 10th and South Street. They have had severe problems in trying to maintain their location. They have an old heating system. It is very expensive to upgrade and maintain their facility and they would like to find another location. This would allow them the use of up to \$50,000 from their cash fund to find another location. This is cash funds that are now accumulative from other properties, they're not allocated for anything else. So this is no additional tax dollars, they just want to have it specified that they are able to use this money to find another location. From the information that I had prepared last year they thought they might save about \$30,000 by finding another place to locate, despite the \$50,000 they had spent in renovation and other activity in relocating the cost is so high to maintain their present location they end up saving \$30,000 and they really want to try and do that. In addition to saving money it would also allow for the implementation of LB 338, which is a bill I have to allow that property to be sold to Lancaster County. DPI now only uses it for the visually impaired. It is not used for any other purpose. The visually impaired only occupy a small part of the hospital, it is very costly, they have a heating system that needs to be updated, it is not a good property. So there is a need on the part of DPI to sell the property. Lancaster County would like the property, it is close to some other property they have and until we get visually impaired moved, then they really can't take any action. So we need this money to help relocate them. It will save some money in the long run. I would ask your support for the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Kilgarin.